



Implementation of the Environmental Advisory Rules Committee's Recommendations

Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance (ODWMA)

April 2015

Recommendation W-17: Safe Drinking Water – Cross Connection Inspections of Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Properties

Recommendation:

Amend R 325.10113 to set a standard for the frequency of testing residential cross-connections. The standard should be based on data that is compiled and analyzed to determine the number and frequency of failures and identification of cross connection problems in residential, commercial and industrial properties. A cost/benefit analysis should be undertaken as well.

Response:

On February 13, 2013, the U.S. EPA published the revised total coliform rule that will require the DEQ to make additions and changes to Parts 1-28, Supplying Water to the Public, of the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, 1976 PA 399, as amended. Recommendation W-17 will also be addressed in these rule changes. Stakeholders met on December 17, 2013, to discuss the Part 14, Cross Connection Inspections of Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Properties, rules. The draft rules include a provision allowing backflow preventers installed on a residential lawn irrigation system to be tested once every five years in certain situations. The draft rules can be viewed on the ORR [Pending Rule Changes](#) Web page. See ORR rule set 2014-023 EQ, page 165. A public hearing on the rules was held on February 18, 2015.

In 2014, [House Bill 5317](#) was introduced by Representative Michael McCready. If enrolled by the Legislature, the bill would have limited a water supplier's ability to require testing of backflow preventers on untreated, residential irrigation systems to not more often than once every five years. Governor Snyder vetoed the bill due to an increased potential risk to public health.

To date, there has not been legislation introduced this session on this matter.

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